

THINK ON ME - REHEARSAL TECHNIQUES

“Think on Me” is a love song from Mary, Queen of Scots, also known in history as Bloody Mary: Daughter of Henry VIII, King of England (1500). Oddly enough, she’s back in vogue w a new Hollywood movie opening this week (not for kids).

The only new rehearsal technique here, easily done w slow music, is singing on vowels. (You’ll see it on the 5th line under the diction.) Vowels are always the majority of sung sound and consonants are like quick clothespins holding between the sheets of sound or vowels. Like all the techniques I’m sending you, think of them as pedagogical tools. At first, whether solfa or rhythm names, diction or singing on vowels, they’ll be hard for your students. But if you persist, they will become the means to accuracy and beautiful blend.

Also we’ll use a bit of English Britishisms: pronounce behold = bih-hō(oo)ld & gladness = glahdnehss (versus the Americanized glædnehss: note the different ‘ah’ vowel.) You’ll also encounter thy, thine, thou, all good words to teach which are no longer in spoken use, but still alive and well in the pages of many books older than one hundred years.

Lastly, for diction, the repeated phrase, “think on me” will always need a “schaw” (uh) between on & me = awn(uh)me, even though it happens rhythmically quickly.

The form is simple and follows the poetry’s structure:

AABBC w the first two phrases having exact melodic repeats, phrases three and four a repeat in the form of sequences and C = acts as a short coda or codetta closing the verse on an arpeggiated riff on the titular words: Think on Me.

This happens three times = three verses.

Think on Me is full of sequences.

Here's a good way to teach musical sequence w numbers and solfa. Here are two sequences, one ascending, one descending:

12345...23456...34567 = drmfs...rmfsl...mfslt

76543...65432...54321 = tlfsm...lfsmr...sfmrd

Please sing them.

In Think on Me, the same things happens w the descending fourth being the key interval. Here are the numbers and solfa at the sequence of the first BB section at measures 13-20:

5634...4523...3412...237(-1)1 = slmf...fsmr...mfdr...rmtd

Do you see it? Can you sing it?